AILA/CBP Liaison Committee Practice Pointer:
Pre-Paid Mailers for Canadians under NAFTA

Acceptance of prepaid mailers from Canadian applicants for admission concurrently submitting an L petition at a border port of entry or preclearance facility in Canada.

Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), citizens of Canada are authorized to present a petition for classification as an L-1 intracompany transferee concurrently with an application for admission to the United States. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers are authorized to adjudicate such L petitions. Upon adjudication of an L petition by a CBP officer at a port of entry, the petition and a record of the action taken by the CBP officer are sent to the appropriate United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Service Center. The USCIS is responsible for creating a Form I-797, Notice of Action confirming the adjudication result (e.g. approval of the L-1 classification and the dates of validity) and sending it to the petitioner.

The CBP Field Officer usually mails the adjudicated L petition and record of action to USCIS by regular U.S. Mail or Priority Mail within 24-48 hours following adjudication. The use of regular U.S. Mail causes a time lag between the petition being presented and receipt of the Form I-797 approval notice from USCIS. Such a time lag creates the possibility that Canadian intracompany transferees who travel frequently may not have the Form I-797 available for subsequent applications for admission. This may inefficiently divert CBP resources by requiring officers to manually verify the nonimmigrant classification. In addition, when a Canadian citizen has a non-Canadian spouse who needs a visa, the information in the L petition must be sent by USCIS to the U.S. Department of State to be included in a special database known as the Petition Information Management System (PIMS). Accordingly, the ability to expedite the process of USCIS receiving the L-1 petition will both enhance the efficiency of the admissions process and more quickly enable families of the L-1 worker to be reunited in the U.S.

For these reasons, CBP will facilitate an alternative approach of delivery to USCIS and accept a prepaid *Express Mail Flat Rate Envelope* submitted with the L-1 petition (AILA Doc. No. 12011168).[1] The prepaid mailer needs to be addressed to either the USCIS California Service Center or the Vermont Service Center, depending on the location where the beneficiary will work. The addresses (current as of August 2011) are listed below and updated information is available at www.uscis.gov. Packages incorrectly addressed or without proper postage will not be accepted.

[1] *CBP Standards for Accepting L-1 Petitions for Canadians under NAFTA*, AILA Doc. No. 12011168, http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=38159

If	And	Mail Form I-129 to
You are the petitioning employer	The beneficiary will work temporarily in: AK, AZ, CA, CO, GU, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, MP, MT, NE, NV, ND, OH, OR, SD, UT, WA, WI, or WY	Courier Address for All I-129s: USCIS California Service Center ATTN I-129 L 24000 Avila Road 2nd Floor, Room 2312 Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 (Please note the type of I-129 in the attention line)
	The beneficiary will work temporarily in: AL, AR, CT, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MS, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OK, PA, PR, RI, SC, TN, TX, VT, VA, VI, or WV	USCIS Vermont Service Center ATTN: I-129 75 Lower Welden Street St. Albans, VT 05479-0001

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